

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-6 presently stand rejected.

The replacement drawings filed November 7, 2003 are accepted.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Reed et al. (5,273,126).

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reed et al. (5,273,126) and further in view of Gey (4,865,141).

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reed et al. (5,273,126) and further in view of Domenighetti et al. (5,009,546).

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reed et al. (5,273,126) and Gey (4,865,141) and further in view of Domenighetti et al. (5,009,546).

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reed et al. (5,273,126) and Gey (4,865,141) and further in view of Muro et al. (6,123,133).

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reed et al. (5,273,126) and further in view of Muro et al. (6,123,133).

Analysis

Claim 1 is the only claim in independent form; therefore, the following discussion is initially directed to this independent claim.

The claimed invention has a practical, labor saving design since the driven wheels are all connected to the same connecting member which is connected to the body of the roller¹. This physical arrangement is missing from the device in Reed. While Reed is directed to a roller having driven wheels, they are not connected to the body via the same single connecting member. Instead, **each** crawler 10 is attached to the body frame 26 via its own sub-frame 24 and swing link/air-spring suspension 28, 30.² Thus, the description and figures in Reed depict one of the two crawler assemblies. Each crawler is attached to the body frame 26 separately, and thus, there is no teaching or suggestion that the set of driven wheels from each of the left- and right-side crawlers are attached to the body via the same single connecting member. This is further illustrated at Fig. 3, which shows a plan view of one assembly 10, including its sub-frame 24, swing link 28 and air-spring suspension 30.

In view of the foregoing, Reed fails to teach or suggest that each set of driven wheels of each crawler are attached to the body through the same single connecting member.

None of the secondary references makes up for the deficiencies of Reed. Thus, claim 1 is patentable.

The remaining rejections are directed to the dependent claims. These claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, by virtue of their dependency therefrom.

¹ See substitute specification at paragraphs 47 and 67.

² Reed at col. 2, lines 52-65 (“...a tractor 8 which is in part supported on a **pair** of half-track assemblies 10, **each** constructed in accordance with the present invention...**each** assembly 10 comprises...”)
emphasis added

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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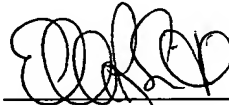
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Respectfully submitted,



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